

REMARKS

Claims 110 - 156 are pending.

Claims 115, 118, 119, 125 – 151 are cancelled with entry of this amendment.

Claims 110 – 114, 116 – 117, 120 – 125 and 152 – 156 are under active consideration.

New Claims 157 – 211 are added with entry of this amendment.

Applicants have amended claims 110, 152, and 153 to include a limitation of encapsulating the pancreatic .beta. islet cells. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at page 4, lines 3 and 4, in Figure 1, and in originally filed claim 19.

Specification

The Examiner has stated that the format of the amendments to the claims does not comply with the Revised Amendment Practice of 37 CFR 1.121, specifically, the text of the withdrawn claims must be identified as “withdrawn” and the text of cancelled claims must be omitted.

Applicants respectfully apologize for the error and submit that the present amendment complies with Revised Amendment Practice of 37 CFR 1.121.

Claim Objections

Claim 110 is objected to due to because the semicolon in line 8 should be deleted. Further, the phrase “exposing the pancreatic islet cells to nicotinamide” in step (ii) should be replaced with “exposing the harvested pancreas to nicotinamide”. These errors are corrected by the present amendment.

Claim 117 is objected to due to as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. This error is corrected by the present amendment.

Claim 120 is objected to because the recitation “at least one of the pancreas”. Applicants